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PUBLIC-HEALTH UNITS COMBAT DISEASES;
HALT RINDERPEST EPIDEMIC IN KIANGSU

EDEMA CASES INCREASING IN SHANTUNG -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 17 Apr 50

Since November 1949, there has been a noticeable increase of edema cases in Chi-pei Hsien, Shantung. To prevent further increase and to aid the suffering inhabitants, the hsien government authorities, through the assistance of the Shantung Provincial People's government and the various special district offices, have distributed 21,000 piculs of black beans and a large amount of cod-liver oil to the affected areas. Plans are also being made to improve production and to raise the living standard of the people to overcome this menace.

CHAHAR TO GIVE ANTI-BUBONIC INOCULATIONS -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 17 Apr 50

Chahar -- To prevent the recurrence of the disastrous bubonic plague of last year, various measures are now being instituted in Chahar. Inoculation units are being dispatched to the areas which were hardest hit by the plague last year, to guide the people in adopting preventive measures and to give inoculations against the plague.

EPIDEMICS CHECKED IN SHANTUNG -- Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 18 Apr 50

Tsinan -- Since the beginning of the spring 1950, epidemics have swept across the coastal region of Shantung Province. Reports have been received of 1,440 cases of smallpox, 5,632 cases of measles, 547 cases of flu, and 116 cases of other illnesses. The most seriously affected areas were Lin-i, Jih-chao, and T'an-ch'eng; Jih-chao Hsien alone had 1,175 cases of smallpox.

To counteract the spread of these diseases, epidemic prevention units were organized in February by the public health departments of local governments, and during the month which followed, 6,469 patients were treated, 545,900 persons were vaccinated by these units, and the spreading of the epidemic was finally checked. About 90 percent of the school children were vaccinated during that period.

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RINDERPEST EPIDEMIC ALMOST STAMPED OUT -- Wu-hsi Su-nan Jih-pao, 19 Apr 50

Through the vigorous efforts of the authorities on all levels and the mobilization of the people for preventive measures and better care of their stock, the rinderpest plague in Chin-shan Hsien, Kiangsu, has been practically stamped out. The 2,700 animals that have died in this area since the liberation represent the power needed to cultivate more than 67,000 mou (one mou is 1/6 acre) of land. Consequently, many folk have had to shift from paddy rice culture to raising cotton and grain.

Poor care, insufficient feeding, and superstition are credited with the spread of epidemics. Many of the peasants are fatalists. When their animal becomes ill they believe it is fated to die and make no attempt to secure veterinary help.

To prevent development of epidemics it is planned to send teams of medical doctors accompanied by veterinarians to inspect farm animals and to teach the people how to improve the care and feeding of their animals. Such care includes drinking water that has been boiled, housing in airy sheds with raised concrete floors, clean feeding troughs, and additional food such as soybeans, cotton seed, and bran during the heavy work season.

REPORTS EPIZOOTIC EPIDEMICS IN HONAN -- Hankow Chang-chiang Jih-pao, 16 Apr 50

Intermittent and remittent fever epidemics have been reported in various localities of Honan Province during winter 1949 and spring 1950. People's governments on all levels are exerting maximum efforts to combat the disease. They are assisted by the Veterinary Unit of the Central People's government, the Agriculture and Forestry Department of the Central and South China Military Control Commission, and a veterinary corps of the Veterinary School attached to the Fourth Field Army. Up to the present, the major causes of the disease have been eliminated, and some 80,000 work animals have been treated against epizootic diseases.

The excessive rainfall in the province since autumn of last year has resulted in shortage of fodder for animals. As a result, malnutrition has made the animals readily susceptible to diseases. Thus the subsequent epizootic outbreaks in the following hsien were unavoidable: Huang-ch'uan, Ku-shih, Hsin-yang, Cheng-yang, Nan-yang, Chen-p'ing, Lo-yang, Hsu-ch'ang, Nei-hsiang, Hsi-ch'uan, Lin-pao, Lu-shih, Shang-ch'u, Shang-shui, and K'ai-feng.

According to incomplete reports, the number of deaths of work animals, up to the end of December 1949, had reached more than 2,000 head. The most serious epidemics occurred during mid-February 1950. In the Yang-ho area of Hsin-yang Hsien, the deaths of work animals in a 9-day period totaled 580 head, which is approximately 12 percent of the animal population in the area. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's government dispatched to the afflicted area 59 epizootologists provided with 800,000 cubic centimeters of anthrax serums.

The Honan People's government has also organized a medical unit to intensify preventive work and direct people's governments on all levels to assist in combating epidemics, especially in the seriously afflicted areas of Nan-yang Hsien and Huai-yang Special Administrative District. In the Shih-kan area of Nei-hsiang Hsien, an epizootic prevention corps inoculated more than 1,200 work animals in one day. The corps also inoculated 2,700 head in Wei-shih, and more than 9,000 head in Lu-shih Hsien.

By the end of March 1950, more than 1,446 sick animals had been treated in the province; some 87,278 head had been inoculated with anthrax serums.

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In two ch'u of Shang-shui Hsien, many work animals recently suffered from scours, gastrectasia, ozena, and other diseases. Three animals died from disease in a 4-day period. On 1 April, a veterinary unit of the province went into the area and treated 28 animals and inoculated 69. The following day, the same unit went to another area and treated 101 head of sick cattle and inoculated 136 other animals.

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